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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/599,832

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EXAMINER

HOANG, PHI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2628

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/03/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/599,832	Applicant(s) TANAKA ET AL.	
	Examiner PHI HOANG	Art Unit 2628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 January 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03 December 2008</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 02 January 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With regard to claims 13 and 23, Applicant states Yoshioka does not disclose “converting access addresses wherein the addresses are converted so that a column address of data at the $(K+m)$ th column, where K and m are integers and $m \leq M$, of the L th line, and a column address of the data at the K th column of the $(L+n)$ line, where L and n are integers and $n \leq N$, become successive, and wherein $n=2n'$ and n' is an integer.” Applicant provides an example where the integer n' is equal to 1 ($n'=1$). However, it is known that the value zero (0) is also an integer; therefore, if $n'=0$, $(L+2n') = L$. Because 0 is an integer the values of the integers K , L , and m can also be equivalent to the value of 0. Therefore, the successive columns of Yoshioka at a line meets the limitations of claims 13 and 23 as mentioned by the Applicant's example shown in figure 9.

Applicant states according to Yoshioka, “unnecessary transfer loads occur in the rectangular access when the field is estimated, such as in motion compensation or motion estimation processing for an interlaced video, and thus the advantage of reducing unnecessary transfer loads cannot be obtained.” However, this advantage is not clearly defined and understood in the claims.

Since the rejection of claims 13 and 23 is maintained, the rejection of dependent claims 14-22 and 24-26 is maintained as well.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 13, 14, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshioka et al. (US 6,075,899).

4. Regarding claim 13, Yoshioka discloses an information processing device comprising: a DRAM having a burst mode which burst-transfers data of successive column addresses; (Column 8, lines 5-27)

at least one processing unit operable to issue an access request; (Column 14, lines 20-27)

and an address conversion unit operable to convert access addresses which are included in the access request issued from said at least one processing unit, (Column 3, lines 29-35)

wherein at least one of said at least one data processing unit is operable to access an M x N rectangular area, where M and N are integers, (Column 7, lines 38-43)

said address conversion unit is operable to convert access addresses so that a column address of data at a (K+m)th column, where K and m are integers and $m \leq M$, of an Lth line, and a column address of data at a Kth column of an (L+n)th line, where L

Art Unit: 2628

and n are integers and $n \leq N$ become successive, (Column 3, lines 29-35, burst length defines how many columns are read)

and at least one area of said DRAM is a frame memory which stores image data, the rectangular area is M pixels \times N lines in the image data, and said at least one data processing unit is operable to perform one of motion compensation and motion estimation, where $n=2n'$ and n' is an integer (Column 7, lines 16-21).

It is obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art that the values of M , N , m and n are integers because row and columns of an image are known to be measured in integer values. Furthermore, it is obvious that m and n are less than or equal to M and N , respectively because the values can not exceed the actual rectangular area. In addition, zero (0) is also a known integer value.

5. Regarding claim 14, Yoshioka discloses another data processing unit is operable to access the image data on a line basis, and to continuously read out data of all $2n$ lines (Column 14, lines 17-27, processor reads from a first in, first out memory).

6. Regarding claim 23, Yoshioka discloses a data access method for accessing a rectangular area made up of M pixels \times N lines in image data from a DRAM, Column 7, lines 38-43) the DRAM having a burst mode which burst-transfers data of continuous column addresses, and storing the image data (Column 8, lines 5-27), said the access method comprising:

inputting an access request for the rectangular area; (Column 14, lines 17-43)

and converting access addresses included in the access request (Column 3, lines 29-35),

the addresses are converted so that a column address of data at a $(K+m)$ th column, where K and m are integers and $m \leq M$, of the L th line, and a column address of the data at the K th column of the $(L+n)$ line, where L and n are integers and $n \leq N$, become successive, (Column 3, lines 29-35, burst length defines how many columns are read)

and at least one area of said DRAM is a frame memory which stores image data and the rectangular area is M pixels \times N lines in the image data, where M and N are integers, and a data processing unit performs motion compensation and motion estimation, where $n=2n'$ and n' is an integer (Column 7, lines 16-21).

It is obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art that the values of M , N , m and n are integers because row and columns of pixels can not be a fractional value. Furthermore, it is obvious that m and n are less than or equal to M and N , respectively because the values can not exceed the actual rectangular area. In addition, zero (0) is also a known integer value.

7. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshioka et al. (US 6,075,899) in view of Mitsuishi (US 6,745,320 B1).

8. Regarding claim 15, Yoshioka discloses said at least one data processing unit is operable to decode an inputted stream on a basis of at least two macroblocks, by motion compensation, (Column 1, line 50 – column 2, line 4)

Art Unit: 2628

said DRAM is operable to store the image data decoded by said data processing unit, (Column 2, lines 12-20)

and said at least one data processing unit is operable to access the image data stored in said DRAM as reference data. (Column 2, line 21 column 2, line 36)

Yoshioka does not clearly disclose said information processing device further comprises: a memory featuring a smaller storage capacity and a faster access speed than said DRAM; a data transfer unit operable to transfer the data from said DRAM to said memory.

However, it is well known in the art that processors have small, fast memory called registers built in for quick access to data from memory (RAM) for processing. Mitsubishi discloses a general purpose processor with registers available for high speed processing (Column 12, lines 6-18).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshioka to utilize smaller, faster memory for processing as disclosed by Mitsubishi because processing of data can be performed more quickly.

9. Claims 16-22 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshioka et al. (US 6,075,899) in view of Mitsubishi (US 6,745,320 B1) and further in view of Callway et al. (US 6,807,311 B1).

10. Regarding claim 16, Yoshioka in view of Mitsubishi discloses all limitations discussed in claim 15.

Art Unit: 2628

Yoshioka (Column 14, lines 17-27, accessing data from memory) in view of Mitsubishi (Column 12, lines 6-18, transferring data to other faster memory) further disclose said data transfer unit is operable to transfer data on a transfer region basis from said DRAM to said memory, based on the access request from said data processing unit.

Yoshioka in view of Mitsubishi does not disclose the image data stored in said DRAM is split into transfer regions larger in size than the rectangular area.

Callway discloses the image data stored in said DRAM is split into transfer regions larger in size than the rectangular area (Column 12, lines 42-58).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshioka in view of Mitsubishi to segment regions of an image for transfer because bandwidth usage is reduced by only retrieving the regions that are necessary.

11. Regarding claim 17, Yoshioka in view of Mitsubishi discloses all limitations discussed in claim 15.

Yoshioka in view of Mitsubishi does not disclose said data transfer unit is operable to transfer a minimum area which surrounds plural rectangular areas as a transfer region as data from said DRAM to said memory, based on an access request from said at least one data processing unit.

Callway discloses said data transfer unit is operable to transfer a minimum area which surrounds plural rectangular areas as a transfer region as data from said DRAM

Art Unit: 2628

to said memory, based on an access request from said at least one data processing unit (Column 12, lines 42-58, area is fixed).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshioka in view of Mitsuishi to transfer a fixed area because bandwidth usage can be reduced by using an optimal size for each transfer.

12. Regarding claim 18, Yoshioka in view of Mitsuishi and further in view of Callway (Column 12, lines 42-58, since the area for transfer is a fixed size the value of the fixed sized is inherently stored in a memory) discloses said data transfer unit includes a register which holds a size of the transfer region.

13. Regarding claim 19, Yoshioka (Column 14, lines 17-27, the processor accesses the image in memory once) in view of Mitsuishi (Column 12, lines 6-18, discloses transferring from RAM to registers) and further in view of Callway discloses said data transfer unit is operable to transfer the data from said DRAM to said memory when a predetermined number n1 of access requests are outputted from said at least one data processing unit.

14. Regarding claim 20, Yoshioka (Column 14, lines 17-27, the processor accesses the image in memory once) in view of Mitsuishi and further in view of Callway (Column 12, lines 42-58, since the area for transfer is a fixed size the value of the fixed sized is inherently stored in a memory) discloses said data transfer unit includes a register which holds the size of the transfer region and the predetermined number n1.

Art Unit: 2628

15. Regarding claim 21, Yoshioka in view of Mitsuishi and further in view of Callway (Column 12, lines 42-58, since the transfer unit is transferring all rectangular areas, there is no regard to whether it is adjacent or overlapping) discloses said data transfer unit is operable to transfer the transfer region which includes all rectangular areas, from said DRAM to said memory when access requests from said at least one data processing unit request the rectangular areas which are adjacent or overlapping.

16. Regarding claim 22, Yoshioka (Column 3, lines 53-67 and column 9, line 13 – column 14, line 7, half-pel interpolation is performed (motion vector estimation) on an image and then decoded) in view of Mitsuishi and further in view of Callway discloses a motion vector estimation unit operable to estimate plural motion vectors corresponding to plural macroblocks from the inputted stream; and a decoding unit operable to decode the inputted stream on a macroblock basis, and to store a decoding result into said DRAM, wherein a decoding sequence of the macroblocks is changed based on the plural motion vectors so that addresses for accessing said DRAM become successive.

17. Regarding claim 24, Yoshioka (Column 14, lines 17-27, the processor accesses the image in memory once) in view of Mitsuishi (Column 12, lines 6-18, discloses transferring from RAM to registers) and further in view of Callway discloses said data transfer unit is operable to transfer the data from said DRAM to said memory when a predetermined number $n1$ of access requests are outputted from said data processing unit.

Art Unit: 2628

18. Regarding claim 25, Yoshioka (Column 14, lines 17-27, the processor accesses the image in memory once) in view of Mitsuishi and further in view of Callway (Column 12, lines 42-58, since the area for transfer is a fixed size the value of the fixed sized is inherently stored in a memory) discloses said data transfer unit includes a register which holds the size of the transfer region and the number n1.

19. Regarding claim 26, Yoshioka in view of Mitsuishi and further in view of Callway (Column 12, lines 42-58, since the transfer unit is transferring all rectangular areas, there is no regard to whether it is adjacent or overlapping) discloses said data transfer unit is operable to transfer the transfer region which includes all rectangular areas, from said DRAM to said memory when access requests from said data processing unit request the rectangular areas which are adjacent or overlapping.

Conclusion

20. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

Art Unit: 2628

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHI HOANG whose telephone number is 571-270-3417. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xiao Wu can be reached on 571-272-7761. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Phi Hoang/
Examiner, Art Unit 2628
March 26, 2009

/XIAO M. WU/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2628